[1025] **CLAIMS**

1. A method for detecting a critical event in the pilothouse of a vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of motion sensors to detect a condition of no motion existing within the pilot house; and

providing an alarm responsive to said no-motion condition.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said condition exists only if no motion is detected by a plurality of sensors during the same time interval.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein an alarm is audible only if said condition persists for a specified time interval.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein an alarm is provided only if said condition is detected when a throttle of the vessel is in forward or reverse state.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said alarm comprises a first alarm activated if said condition persists for a first specified time interval and a second alarm activated if said condition persists for a second specified time interval greater than the first time interval.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein an alarm is inaudible if said condition persists for a first specified time interval and is audible if said condition persists for a second specified time interval greater than the first time interval.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising a mechanism for recording the existence and time of conditions for which an alarm is provided.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising a mechanism for observing the existence and time of conditions for which an alarm is provided.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said sensors are responsive to a change in spatial distribution of infrared energy within the pilothouse.

10. A system for detecting a critical event in the pilothouse of a vessel, comprising:

a plurality of sensors for detecting a condition of no motion existing within the pilot house; and

an alarm responsive to said no-motion condition.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said condition exists only if no motion is detected by a plurality of sensors during the same time interval.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein an alarm is audible only if said condition persists for a specified time interval.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein an alarm is provided only if said condition is detected when a throttle of the vessel is in forward or reverse state.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein said alarm comprises a first alarm activated if said condition persists for a first specified time interval and a second alarm activated if said condition persists for a second specified time interval greater than the first time interval.

15. The system of claim 10, wherein an alarm is inaudible if said condition persists for a first specified time interval and is audible if said condition persists for a second specified time interval greater than the first time interval.

16. The system of claim 10, further comprising a mechanism for recording the existence and time of conditions for which an alarm is provided.

17. The system of claim 10, further comprising a mechanism for observing the existence and time of conditions for which an alarm is provided.

18. The system of claim 10, wherein said sensors are responsive to a change in spatial distribution of infrared energy within the pilothouse.

19. A system for detecting a critical event in the pilothouse of a vessel, comprising:

a plurality of sensors responsive to motion within the pilothouse;

a mechanism for determining if no motion has been detected by a sensor for a specified time interval; and

an alarm indicating the existence of a condition of no-motion.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising;

a mechanism to communicate the existence of said condition to a place exterior to the pilot house.